

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **STUPECKY**) Prior Art Unit: **3765**
U.S. Appln. No.: **Not Yet Assigned**) Prior Examiner: **Gary L. Welch**
Filing Date: **Filed Herewith**)
Title: **Device for Fleshing, Stretching and**)
 Drying Leather or Similar Flat)
 Materials Such as Skins, Furs and)
 Such Like)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The applicant respectfully requests the amendment of the following:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

CROSS-RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application no. 09/719,760, filed March 9, 2001, which is a 35 U.S.C. §371 application of International PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/01636; filed June 2, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 9 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2-8 as follows:

1. (cancelled).
2. (currently amended) A Device for the dewatering, stretching and drying of leather, and similar flat materials and pieces thereof, thereby characterized that it possesses having an interstice, sealed by a gasket D and connected to a vacuum source (VQ) for the leather piece (L) and consistsing of a support surface (AF), above which lamellae (LM1) are mounted with a drive mechanism (AV) to deploy them said lamella outwards from the centre.